

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 for inclusion of the phrase "engine compression release braking". Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that the phrase is both distinct and descriptive of temperature and pressure conditions that define the nature of the insulating coating attached to the fuel injector tip. In other words, the claim means that the insulating layer characteristics are such that the valve seat temperature remains below its tempering temperature under conditions associated with engine compression release braking. Thus, Applicants have used the best possible terms in the claim to define the nature of the insulating layer of the present invention. Nevertheless, in order to better prevent the claims from being misinterpreted in a way that would support a §112 rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to make it clear that neither an engine nor a brake are part of the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §112 rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) over Kampmann et al. Applicants respectfully disagree since case law and the MPEP require that a reference disclose exactly what an Applicant has claimed in order to support a proper §102 rejection. In this case, Applicants claims require that the insulator be attached to the injector tip, not merely positioned adjacent the tip as per Kampmann et al. Nowhere does Kampmann et al. teach attaching their sleeve to a fuel injector. Instead, the background and summary of the invention make it clear that the purpose of the invention is to allow production of many uniform fuel injectors and then selectively choose different shaped sleeves to suit a particular engine application. Thus, Kampmann et al. fails to teach Applicants attachment limitation, and can only fairly be interpreted as teaching away from attachment in order to satisfy the objectives set forth in its background and summary. Therefore, all of the §102 rejections based upon Kampmann et al. should be withdrawn.

In order to better prevent Applicants claims from being misread onto Kampmann et al., Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 9 to make it clear that the centerlines of the nozzle outlets do not intersect the insulator. There should be no dispute that Kampmann et al. only teaches sleeves that overlap the fuel stream from the nozzle

outlets so that the fuel stream is deflected from contact with the sleeve surface.

Therefore, Kampmann et al. shows something other, and actually teaches away from, the subject matter required by Applicants' claims. In view of the fact that Applicants' claims include at least two features (attachment and intersection) that are contrary to the teachings of Kampmann et al., Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §102 rejections based upon Kampmann et al. be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended the specification so that the new claim language regarding the lack of an intersection between the nozzle outlets and the insulator find antecedent basis in the written specification. No new matter is believed added to the application, as the added verbiage was shown, and therefore disclosed, in the application as originally filed.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) over Kato et al. Applicant again respectfully disagrees since relevant case law and the MPEP require that a reference show exactly what an Applicant has claimed in order to support a proper §102 rejection. In this case, as with Kampmann et al., Kato et al. fails to teach insulator attachment, as required by Applicants' claims. Instead, Kato et al. merely teaches interposing a ceramic disk between a fuel injector and the combustion space. Kato et al.'s teaching of the positioning of a ceramic component adjacent an injector tip is something different than what Applicants have claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §102(e) rejections based upon Kato et al. be withdrawn.

In order to better distinguish Applicants' claimed invention from Kato et al. fairly teaches, Applicants have amended the independent claims to make it clear that the insulator is attached to and surrounds a portion of, the outer surface of the injector tip. In other words, the insulator surrounds that portion of the tip to which it is attached. Even ignoring the attachment issue, Applicants respectfully assert that there is no way to misread Applicants' claim language onto anything fairly taught or suggested by Kato et al. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §102(e) rejections based upon Kato et al. be withdrawn.

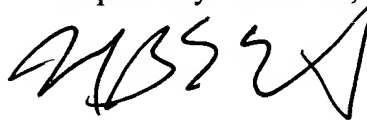
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Kampmann et al. Applicants respectfully disagree since one with ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the sleeve of Kampmann et al. would likely be substantially more than three (3) millimeters

in thickness in order to even survive the installation process without shattering.

Nevertheless, claim 5 now includes features via its base claim that are contrary to the express teachings of Kampmann et al. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §103 rejections based upon Kampmann et al. be withdrawn.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance of claims 1-11. However, if the Examiner believes that some minor additional clarification would put this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (812) 333-5355 in order to hasten the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBS' followed by a stylized flourish.

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